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BOOK REVIEWS.

MORTUARY LAW. By SIDNEY PERLEY, of the Massachusetts Bar.
Boston: George B. Reed. 1896.

In legal literature the end of making many books seems much further in the future than the exhaustion of new subjects for literary effort. Mr. Perley, by filling a two hundred and twenty page volume with the exposition of a branch of the law to which no other legal work has been exclusively devoted, has surely performed a noteworthy act. "The law concerning dead human bodies" begins with the last sickness and carries the reader through the records of deaths and burials, the property, custody, transportation, exhumation, and disposition of dead bodies, funerals, grave-stones, and the somewhat bulky law relating to cemeteries. The author has treated the subject exhaustively and has cited nearly four hundred cases, most of which are American decisions. Owing to the large amount of money expended each year for funerals and burial places, and as the questions arising in regard to dead bodies must be determined quickly, it seems that this volume, dealing with these questions, should be both convenient and valuable to the practicing attorney. The author may perhaps be justly criticized for too diffuse a style and for sometimes wandering from the technical legal path into the fields of poetry and legend.

F. S. M.

A PRACTICAL TREATISE ON THE LAW OF RECEIVERS, with extended consideration of Receivers of Corporations. By CHARLES FISK BEACH, JR., of the New York Bar. Second Edition, with elaborate additions, etc. By WILLIAM A. ALDERSON, of the St. Louis Bar. New York: Baker, Voorhis & Co. 1897.

The frequency with which courts of equity have been petitioned in recent years to exercise their preventive jurisdiction has rendered the subject of receivers and receiverships of great importance. It is natural that the text-book makers should keep pace with this development, and the present volume is an excellent illustration of the fact.

Nine years have elapsed since the first edition was published. In speaking of his labor, the editor of this edition says: "I have not been satisfied to merely present the decisions of the various courts, but upon questions as to which courts have disagreed, and concerning many propositions not yet adjudicated, I have indulged in discussion and the expression of my own views." Perhaps the practice of making extensive quotations from reported opinions, which constitutes a large part of the editor's discussions, may be ques-